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For Immediate Release.

BANNED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FOR LIFE

New York, September 24, 92, Li-Lien Gibbons was told that she was banned from the United Nation for demonstrating on the premises. Li-Lien Gibbons, step-sister of Kamal Bamadhaj, New Zealander killed in East Timor last November 12, unfurled a banner (which said Free East Timor) and also shouted "Free East Timor" while President Suharto was addressing the General Assembley on behalf of the non-aligned movement. She was immediately arrested by UN guards. Li-Lien was held and interrogated by UN authorities for over an hour before she was released. No charges have been pressed against her so far.

Li-Lien felt that a voice for East Timor was needed during President Suharto's speech. In interviews afterwards she said:"I simply could not sit and listen to Suharto talk about democracy, human rights, self-determination and independence when the East Timorese are suffering from unlawful arrests, tortures, disappearances and killings under the Indonesian military occupation which is not recognised by the UN".

President Suharto's speech made no mention of East Timor, a former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976. Yet he condemned the human rights violations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and welcomed "the restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty, independence amd territorial integrity". President Suharto also talked about "the building of a new world order dedicated to peace as well as to justice, to security as well as to development, to democracy both within and among the states, and to the promotion of the fundamental rights of nations as well as individual human beings."

Indonesia still occupies East Timor. There is no evidence of a building towards peace, justice, democracy and the promotion of human rights in that country; brutal repression by the Indonesian military continues. Suharto's government has betrayed the principles of the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement in its occupation of East Timor.

Li-Lien Gibbons can be reached in New York at (914) 428-7299 till Sat. Sep.26 and then back in Toronto at (416) 531-6154

(statement enclosed)